



**Governing Council
of the United Nations
Environment Programme**



Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/GCSS.V/INF/4
8 May 1998

ENGLISH ONLY

Fifth special session
Nairobi, 20-22 May 1998

PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Note by the Executive Director

The Executive Director has the honour to circulate to members of the Governing Council, in the annex to the present note, the paper entitled "UNEP: A Partner in Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity".

Na.98-0259 080598

/...

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

**UNEP:
A Partner in the
Implementation of the
Convention on Biological
Diversity**

Over the last six years, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has worked extraordinarily hard at the global, regional and national levels to support the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In collaboration with governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and its sister UN agencies, UNEP promotes the protection and sustainable use of individual species and their genetic resources, as well as the conservation of their habitats. It also strives to develop appropriate ways of maintaining maximum genetic diversity, placing special emphasis on species with established socio-economic value. And, as it has from the initial negotiation of the convention, UNEP continues to provide technical, scientific, financial and administrative support to the Permanent Secretariat.



In 1995, UNEP formulated a Biodiversity Programme and Implementation Strategy (BPIS). The BPIS is a multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral approach to the integrated management and sustainable utilization of biodiversity in oceans and coastal areas, freshwater ecosystems and terrestrial ecosystems. It emphasizes the need to build capacities for the assessment, monitoring and management of biodiversity at the national level, while ensuring the full participation and support of local communities. The objectives of BPIS are those enshrined in the Convention on Biological Diversity and Agenda 21, namely:

- I. Improving the conservation of biological diversity;
- II. Enhancing the sustainable utilization of the components of biological diversity;
- III. Promoting the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

PROGRAMMATIC SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

MAJOR INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF CBD AND AGENDA 21

- Preparation of biodiversity country studies, strategies, and action plans (UNEP, UNDP)
- Preparation of a global biodiversity assessment report (UNEP)
- Campaign to strengthen capacities in biodiversity data management (UNEP)
- Establishment of the Global Tiger Forum (UNEP)
- Release of the Global Biodiversity Strategy (IUCN, WRI, UNEP and WWF)
- Release of the World Watch List for Domestic Animal Diversity (UNEP and FAO)
- Launch of the Programme Diversitas (UNESCO, IUBS and SCOPE)
- Organization of global biodiversity forums (IUCN, WRI and UNEP)
- Creation of the system-wide Programme on Genetic Resources (SGRP) (FAO)
- Convening of an international forum on the theme *Biodiversity, science and development: Towards a new partnership* (IUBS and UNESCO)
- Preparation of the International Conference on Biosphere Reserves (UNESCO)
- Establishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support, among others, national, regional and global biodiversity-related activities (World Bank, UNDP and UNEP)
- Harmonization of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources (FAO)

UNEP has undertaken dozens of different activities to support the implementation of the specific articles of the Convention on Biological Diversity:

Article 6: General measures for conservation and sustainable use

☐ Development of assessment and planning methodologies. In 1991, UNEP made available guidelines for the preparation of Case Studies on Costs, Benefits and Unmet Needs for Biodiversity Conservation. These pilot guidelines evolved into a more comprehensive tool to conduct assessments of biodiversity. The assessments include appraisal of the current status of biological resources and ecosystems, determination of the main threats to and supports for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and examination of the related socio-economic, legal and institutional aspects. Thirty-three countries have undertaken national studies on biological diversity using the above technical guidelines. These studies are the main source of information for the preparation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

☐ Publication of Guidelines for National Biodiversity Planning. Published in 1995, the Guidelines were commended by COP-2, which encouraged the Parties to use them in developing national biodiversity planning processes. The Guidelines grew out of a review of early experiences in national biodiversity planning undertaken in collaboration with World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in 1995.

/...

- ☐ Support for development of national action plans. UNEP is assisting 26 countries to prepare national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as their First National Reports to the Conference of the Parties as per decision II/17.

- ☐ Participation in a project proposal to expand available technical assistance. UNEP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have jointly proposed to increase the amount of technical assistance available to countries for the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Using PDF-B Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding, UNEP held in 1997 and 1998 two regional expert workshops on the need for building capacity in national biodiversity planning in Africa and Latin America.

- ☐ Promotion of the Sustainable Biodiversity Programme in Europe. UNEP supports the implementation of European resource-conservation and sustainable-use policies, particularly in Eastern Europe. UNEP is helping to implement the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, which is part of the "Environment for Europe" process agreed to by UNEP and the Council of Europe. UNEP also backs implementation of the United Nations Council on Economic Development Forest Principles in Europe and the UNEP-IUCN Action Plan 1997, in which biodiversity is one of the priority areas and Europe one of the target areas. UNEP is also assisting in the development and publication of the Slovakian national biodiversity strategy.

- ☐ Organization of regional workshops on forestry issues. UNEP and FAO co-organized Regional Workshops in Africa (January 1995, Accra, Ghana), Asia and the Pacific (January 1995, Bangkok, Thailand), and Latin America and the Caribbean (December 1994, Santiago, Chile) to highlight regional perspectives on UNCED follow-up in forestry and to carry out a debate on regional progress and outstanding issues. The workshops identified the progress made since Rio in the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests, in the patterns of production and consumption of forest products; and in the participation of major groups in forestry. They also identified the major constraints to further progress, such as inadequate funding, lack of institutional capacity, and lack of appropriate technology.

- ☐ Publication of *Valuing Forests: Context, Issues and Guidelines*. Produced in 1995 in partnership with FAO, World Bank and Minnesota University, *Valuing Forests* calls specifically for development of "appropriate methodologies to assess the value of forests in a comprehensive manner". The publication reviews approaches which overcome the limitations of conventional analysis and provides a reference framework on forest valuation.

- ☐ Leadership of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals (MMAP). As Secretariat of the Global Plan of Action, UNEP is coordinating and facilitating the on-going revision of the Action Plan. UNEP has also led efforts to develop a marine mammal component within the Black Sea Environment Programme funded by the GEF and, with other agencies in East Africa, supported a reconnaissance aerial survey of the northern coastal areas of Kenya (Lamu region) where dugongs had been sighted in the past.

- ☐ Assistance in the preparation of the CBD Workprogramme on Forest Biodiversity. In addition, UNEP developed its own Forest Policy and a Proposed Action Programme for the Period 1996-2000 which was published in August 1996. This document highlighted UNEP's main role as agenda setter and catalyst in convening policy dialogue on forest-related environmental matters. UNEP will support environmental policy workshops, consensus-building forums, environmental policy research and projects that provide a testing ground for improved environmental policies and technologies. In implementing this programme, UNEP will actively seek out possibilities for developing collaborative

partnerships with governments, conservation groups, private sector foundations, industrial associations, environmental policy research institutions, and in particular with FAO and other relevant agencies within the United Nations system.

☐ Implementation of UNEP's part of the Workprogramme of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF). UNEP is the lead agency for two Programme Elements and it will coordinate the implementation of the proposals for Action on these two elements, which was endorsed by CSD V (April 1997, New York). UNEP also prepared the Secretary General's Report to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF), the predecessor of the IFF.

☐ Stimulation of the establishment of the World Mountain Forum. The Mountain Forum is an innovative and integrative bridge between diverse non-governmental, governmental, inter-governmental, scientific and private sector organizations and individuals. The purpose of the Mountain Forum is to provide a forum for mutual support, and for the exchange of ideas and experiences. This will empower participants to raise mountain issues on local, national, regional, and international agendas and to promote policies and actions for equitable and ecologically sustainable mountain development. In addition, UNEP contributed to the preparation of the World Mountain Forum Workplan for the period 1998 - 2000 in the context of Chapter 13 of Agenda 21: Sustainable Mountain Development.

☐ Joint development of pilot models on integrated management of Himalayan Ecosystems. A collaborative effort with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the pilot models will identify viable options for integrated management and sustainable development of Himalayan ecosystem. They will demonstrate to policy makers and planners the key factors contributing to sustainable land use in mountain ecosystems. The project will also train local communities and farmers to utilize and manage natural resources sustainably.

Article 7: Identification and monitoring

☐ Initiation of a GEF-funded Biodiversity Data Management (BDM) project. Working with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), UNEP seeks to realize the CBD's requirement to "maintain and organize, by any mechanism, data derived from identification and monitoring activities." The project also seeks to facilitate the building of national capacity for biodiversity data management and exchange. The project focuses on developing countries and, at least initially, on the biodiversity data compiled in the country studies. The ten countries participating in the project will a) conduct a national 'institutional survey', which will report on the existing national capability for data management; b) prepare a national plan for the management and application of biodiversity data in support of the CBD; c) develop a series of basic guidelines to support efficient information management; and d) compile a resource inventory (or "Tool Box") of available methods and technologies from which countries can draw upon selectively to suit their needs. It has been suggested that the BDM might be used as a model for the development of the CBD Clearing House Mechanism (CHM).

One result of the BDM project has been the publication of a set of supporting materials intended to raise the profile of biodiversity information in decision-making processes, and to help countries establish information programmes in support of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The materials, which were prepared by WCMC in collaboration with UNEP and the participating countries, include Guide to Information Management (UNEP/WCMC, 1996); Guide to National Institutional Survey (UNEP/WCMC, 1998); and The Electronic Resource Inventory (UNEP/WCMC, 1995).

☐ Provision of advice and technical input to government-organized meetings. UNEP actively participated in five government-organized intersessional activities in 1996 related to the IPF work

/...

programme. These programmes were the Intergovernmental Seminar on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, held in Finland (19-22 August); Implementing the Forest Principles, held in Germany (16-22 June); Study on the work of international organizations and multi-lateral institutions in the forest sector, held in Switzerland and Peru (5-7 March and July); Workshop on financial/mechanisms and sources of finance for sustainable forestry sponsored by Denmark, Republic of South Africa and UNDP, held in South Africa (4-7 June); and the Expert Meeting in Rehabilitation of Forest Degraded Ecosystems sponsored by Portugal, Cape Verde and Senegal, in cooperation with the FAO, held in Portugal (24-28 June).

☐ Preparation of the Workplan and Operation Strategy for the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000 (FRA2000). UNEP and FAO jointly conducted regional planning and FRA2000 preparation for Africa. The preparation includes an assessment of the current state of and recent changes in African forests, at both national and regional levels, looking at timber and non-timber values, as well as other ecological and environmental values. UNEP and FAO also sought to identify partners and cooperating nations--and their potential roles and work modules--for the implementation of FRA 2000 in Africa. Such work included an assessment of the resources needed by African countries to build up their capacity to participate in and provide information for FRA2000. UNEP also assisted in the drafting of a strategic plan and an operational work plan for Africa, and in the processing of remote sensing data.

☐ Development of a GEF concept proposal on methodologies to assess forest biodiversity. The project seeks to provide quality information on the status of biodiversity in forests and woodlands, which can be used to set standards, guidelines and expectations to participating countries. An effective methodology will allow in-country assessments to be conducted efficiently and will contribute to periodic global biodiversity assessments with a minimum of adjustment.

☐ Publication of the *World Atlas of Desertification*. First published by UNEP in 1992, the Atlas demonstrated the global extent of the problem of desertification and summarized the current state of scientific knowledge on the drylands of the globe. The 1997 edition has been extensively revised and expanded to cover related environmental issues, including biodiversity, climate change and the availability of water. The Atlas includes estimates of population in the areas at risk and also includes a study of the impact of desertification on migration and refugees.

☐ Active partnership in the development of criteria and indicators. UNEP and FAO jointly initiated the Dry-Zone Africa Process and Near East Process. The Dry-Zone Africa Process was begun in 1995, and formulated 7 criteria and 47 indicators for sustainable forest management in the Dry-Zone Africa countries. The Process was endorsed by the 10th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (27 November - 1 December 1995, South Africa). In November 1997, UNEP and FAO jointly organized a workshop to advance the process further and to discuss the applicability and practical implementation of criteria and indicators in the context of dry-zone African conditions. The Near East Process started in 1996, and elaborated 7 criteria and 57 indicators for sustainable forest management in the Near East Countries. It was endorsed at the 12th Session of the Near East Forestry Commission. Countries in the region have taken actions to implement the criteria and indicators at the national level.

☐ Collaboration with FAO in the preparation and publication of the World Watch List for Domestic Animal Diversity. UNEP also worked with FAO to prepare the Animal Genetic Resources Information Bulletins.

/...

Article 8: In Situ Conservation

- Promotion of an international network of biosphere reserves. UNEP has actively promoted the International Biosphere Reserves Action Plan, which seeks to develop biosphere reserves on a world-wide basis. Indeed, since 1972 UNEP, in cooperation with Governments, FAO, UNESCO and IUCN, has been actively involved in promoting the selection, establishment and management of national parks, biosphere reserves and other marine and terrestrial protected areas. UNEP's work has helped forge a global network of protected-area planners and managers, and to construct a network of effectively managed protected areas, representative of the Earth's diversified ecosystems. These protected areas take into account critical habitats and the migration routes of wild animals.
- Continuation of support for the substantial global databases on threatened animals and plants maintained by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC). A joint venture of IUCN, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and UNEP, the WCMC continued to compile and manage information on threats to the planet's biodiversity. WCMC published the 1993 United Nations List of National Parks and Protected Areas, Global Biodiversity: Status of the Earth's Living Resources, and the Biodiversity Map Library. WCMC, in collaboration with UNEP, also provided technical support to many countries in the area of biodiversity information-gathering, dissemination and management.
- Promotion of bi-national and international reserves. UNEP prepared and published *Transfrontier Reserves for Peace and Nature: A Contribution to Human Security*, which aimed to broaden the conservation agenda for Indochina by presenting case studies that supported the establishment of a tri-national park. UNEP also provided support to the management strategy for La Amistad International Biosphere Reserve between Costa Rica and Panama. In addition, UNEP is cooperating with UNDP and the Organization of American States (OAS), to support the "Path of the Panther" system of protected areas, which will run the length of the Central American isthmus.
- Development of global strategies to conserve tigers, rhinos, and elephants. UNEP works with tiger, rhinoceros and elephant range states in Asia and Africa and with other concerned partners to conserve these specially threatened species. Global Policies, Strategies and Action Plans are being pursued under the aegis of the Global Tiger Forum and the Elephant and Rhino Facility. The Biological Diversity Unit prepared a project document to follow up on three UNEP inter-governmental conferences between elephant and rhinoceros range States, consumer States and donors during 1992 and 1993 and on the 1994 First Meeting of Tiger Range States on the Conservation of the Tiger, co-sponsored by UNEP. The project is aiming at the adoption of global policies by concerned range States in a UNEP inter-governmental conference. The global policies, strategies and action plans will be prepared in close cooperation with range States and other concerned partners and will be based on analyses of Country Action Plans for Elephant, Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation. The project document has been submitted to the GEF for funding. A PDF grant is being sought to further develop the project.
- Continual analysis of tiger conservation and trade issues. In conjunction with the CITES Standing Committee, progress and problems are constantly reviewed. Since 1995 a number of tiger range states have improved their legislation on trade and conservation, but urgent action is still required in some range and consumer states. The levels of enforcement and educational activity have improved, but poaching and illegal trade are still serious threats. These threats will be addressed through the Global Tiger Forum, potentially a key approach to achieve tiger conservation.

/...

- Enhancement of the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean governments to manage wildlands, protected areas and wild species. The UNEP/FAO project on Wildlands, Protected Areas and Wildlife Management in the Latin-American and Caribbean Region has supported a large number of technical activities, regional workshops on major policy issues, and publication of technical and training documents on priority subject matters concerning the region. In cooperation with institutions and specialists from all Latin American countries, the project seeks to develop long-term sustainable economic and social development strategies, while taking the experience and role of indigenous people and their cultures fully into account. Several technical reports on key issues in the region have been published and widely distributed among the members of the UNEP/FAO Latin American Technical Cooperation Network on Wildlands, Protected Areas and Wildlife, which has grown to a total number of more than 1100 specialities and has received strong support from the countries. UNEP is currently assisting the development of a project entitled "Strategic Alliance between Indigenous and Protected Areas' Authorities in the Amazon Basin" with a view to address biodiversity issues in the buffer zones of protected areas and where overlays occur between indigenous territories and protected areas.
- Organization of the Africa Forests Policy Forum. Working with the World Bank, UNEP brought about 100 participants from governments, industrial firms, academic institutions, local communities, and NGOs to review the successful policy options and best practices in Africa, and to share experiences and lessons learned about the management of forest resources. Africa's forests and woodland resources occupy a prominent place among the world's forests and offer a wide spectrum of biological diversity.
- Assistance with the development and funding of several project initiatives. An interregional project, "People, Land Management and Environmental Change (PLEC)" primarily deals with conservation and management of agrobiodiversity. PLEC was developed jointly by UNEP, United Nations University (UNU), Australian National University (ANU), and a number of institutions in five clusters of countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. PLEC has now been submitted to GEF for funding. Another proposal: "Management of Indigenous Vegetation for the Rehabilitation of Degraded Rangelands in the Arid Zone of Africa" was submitted to GEF and is being developed into a fully fledged project. It deals with indigenous rangeland vegetation of the dryland ecosystems. Through ICRISTAT, UNEP also participated in the Desert Margins Initiative (DMI) for conservation, management and research on species in dryland ecosystems, which was developed by a consortium of national and international organizations and institutes. The DMI has been submitted to CGIAR for funding. UNEP, together with UNESCO and others, continued its association with and support for the International Programme for Arid Land Crops (IPALAC) of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. IPALAC focuses on education and technology transfer for maximizing the potential of arid-land-adapted germ plasm.
- Support for the International Consultation on Sacred Mountains. The consultation, held in West Virginia, USA (April 1998) identified major cross-cultural themes and research needs relating to sacred mountains, thereby determining their relevance to sustainable land use, environmental protection, and cultural preservation. The consultation will produce *Guidelines for Sacred Mountains in Conservation and Sustainable Development* targeted to governments, international donor agencies, development agencies and NGOs.
- Preparation of Cultural and Spiritual Values of Biodiversity. This volume will present a wide range of views regarding the importance of traditional knowledge and its applications, as well as the implications of the loss of cultural and linguistic diversity for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Ethical, moral and religious considerations are also presented.

☐ Initiation of a project on intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge. This project seeks to promote a better understanding of the relationship between intellectual property rights and the preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous and local communities. It will explore the possible role of intellectual property rights in promoting the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of such knowledge and practices.

☐ Provision of technical and financial support for the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). UNEP provided technical and financial assistance for (a) an ICRI Regional Workshop for the East Asia Seas, held in Bali (March 1996); (b) an ICRI Regional Workshop for the Western Indian Ocean and Eastern African Region, held in the Seychelles (March -April 1996); (c) the 8th International Coral Reef Symposium, held in Panama (June 1996), which included the organization of an ICRI symposium/workshop on science and management and the preparation and presentation of a plenary paper. UNEP also participated actively in the ICRI CPC meeting at the World Bank, held in Washington D.C. (October 1997) to coordinate UNEP's input into the ICRI process, and in the World Bank Seminar on Coral Reefs, held in association with the Fifth Annual World Bank Conference on Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development. UNEP representatives gave presentations of regional activities in the Eastern African and Caribbean regions. Finally, UNEP, along with IOC and IUCN, helped establish the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network.

☐ Dissemination of public and technical information on the Indonesian forest fires. Forest fires are a major threat to *in situ* conservation of forest ecosystems. The fires in Sumatra and Kalimantan, Indonesia, started in June/July 1997 and lasted until the end of October 1997. The fires burned about 700,000 hectares of forest. The smoke shrouded six countries (Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Thailand) and 70 million people in choking smog/haze from September to November 1997. More than 20 million people fell ill from respiratory diseases, and more than 1,000 died. A conservative estimate indicates that the fires cost the countries more than US\$2 billion. They produced as much carbon dioxide, the main cause of global warming, as Europe emits in a year, and their occurrence threatens one of the world's most ecologically rich areas. The Indonesian forests are home to at least one-tenth of the Earth's species. UNEP and WCMC launched a Worldwide Web site highlighting the potential ecological impacts of the forest fire in October 1997. UNEP and the Television Trust for the Environment (TVE) produced a documentary film on the Indonesian Forest Fires entitled: *Primates, Palm Oil and Pyromania* in 1997.

The forest fires started again in February 1998 in East Kalimantan, and had burned about 230,000 hectares of forests up to mid April 1998. In March 1998, the Executive Director of UNEP was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as the coordinator of the UN System's response to address the economic, health and environmental impacts of the forest fires in Indonesia. A project on Emergency-Response to Combat Forest Fires in South-East Asia was developed by UNEP and approved by GEF in early April 1998. The project aims to coordinate international efforts addressing the emergency situation arising from the Indonesian forest fires, and to assist the South East Asian countries in coordinating their regional efforts to mitigate the short and long term impacts of forest fires. From end of March to mid-April 1998, UNEP and UN/DHA jointly sent a UN Disaster Assessment Mission to Indonesia to assist the government in prioritizing their actions in response to the fires, assessing the assistance provided from all sources, and evaluating the extent of damage caused by the fires.

On 20 April 1998, a Forest Fire-fighting Workshop was convened by UNEP with the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to propose practical recommendations for improving short-term fire-fighting efforts, and to develop a medium- to long-term action programme to tackle the problem and address root causes and possible remedies. The Workshop also sought to

/...

set up a working-level network to help co-ordinate further assistance. The next day, a Coordination Meeting was convened by the same organizations and attended by relevant United Nations agencies and international organizations and donors. The recommendations which resulted from the workshop were presented and adopted at the meeting. The meeting also received the report of the latest United Nations Disaster Assessment Coordination (UNDAC) mission to Indonesia.

□ Assistance to the authorities on the Brazilian forest fires. At the request of the Government of Brazil on Friday 27th of March, a United Nations Disaster Relief Coordination (UNDAC) team, which included two UNEP staff members, was immediately sent to Brazil. The team's terms of reference were to assist in the coordination of fire fighting efforts undertaken by the Brazilian authorities and to conduct a preliminary *in situ* estimation of the damage caused by the fires. UNEP's participation was to contribute the environmental component of these estimations.

Article 9: Ex-situ Conservation

□ Support for the Microbial Strain Data Network (MSDN). The MSDN is a computerized referral system containing information on strains of micro-organisms and cell lines. The network provides free access over the World Wide Web (WWW) to a number of databases derived mainly from culture collection catalogues. The value of the MSDN suite of databases is its geographical range, diversity and availability through a single WWW source. An electronic version of the fourth edition of the *World Directory of Collections of Cultures of Micro-organisms* has been produced, and a scientific information node has been established in Africa. The MSDN also promotes the environmentally sound application of biotechnologies in developing countries by undertaking activities for the conservation of valuable endangered culture collections of micro-organisms and for the promotion of storage, retrieval, distribution and information-exchange systems on microbial genetic resources.

□ Promotion of a network of nine regional Microbiological Resources Centre (MIRCENS). Culture collections housed in MIRCENS are used to promote the environmentally sound application of related biotechnologies in developing countries. Some of the biotechnologies may also be relevant to industrialized countries in fields such as pollution control. MIRCENS are located in Thailand (Bangkok), China (Beijing), Egypt (Cairo), Senegal (Dakar), Syria (Damascus), Guatemala (Guatemala), Kenya (Nairobi), Brazil (Porto Alegre), and India (Pune). The MIRCENS may be accessed through the MSDN.

□ Cooperation with the FAO Global Programme for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources (AGR). The programme provides the structure for achieving country-based emphasis combined with the necessary regional and global coordination for the management of animal genetic resources. A milestone in the cooperative efforts of UNEP and FAO in this area is the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) on the INTERNET at the site: <http://www.fao.org/dad-is/>. Another milestone is the FAO/UNEP World Watch List for Domestic Animal Diversity (WWL-DAD) which acts as the voice of the Global Early Warning System for Farm Animal Genetic Resources. UNEP collaborates with FAO to conduct in-depth analyses of the status of critical breeds; to disseminate relevant information on the conservation and management of animal genetic resources; to encourage the development of basic national inventories; to compile global and regional information; to develop data systems and national gene banks; and to promote education and training.

□ Assistance with a global network of gene banks. In cooperation with the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), UNEP helps support gene banks in more than 50 countries.

The germplasm--and related information-- in gene banks under the auspices of FAO is available to all United Nations members for use in sustainable agricultural development.

Article 10: Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity

☐ Support for FAO's animal biodiversity segment. UNEP supports the FAO's objective of the development and execution of a global management strategy to utilize animal genetic resources more effectively, and overcome their current high loss. This would result in enhanced dissemination and use of information on endangered animal genetic diversity, and improved global, regional and national programmes for conservation and sustainable use of livestock genetic diversity.

☐ Collaboration with IPGRI on global and regional programmes and action plans for the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources. These programmes and plans are implemented by IPGRI, and are largely aimed at training people in plant genetic resource conservation and sustainable use. Topics addressed include basic seed gene bank procedures, protection of the genetic basis of Africa's traditional crops, and strategies for the development of national plant genetic resource programmes. UNEP also works with IPGRI to overcome the continued erosion of plant genetic diversity. In particular, genetic resources of target crop species in priority areas in Kenya, Vietnam and Thailand are conserved *in situ* or collected for conservation in *ex situ* gene banks, including global base collections.

☐ Joint implementation of activities to promote the biodiversity of drylands. UNEP and the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) seek to enhance the productivity of dryland natural resources through integrated and improved management. Dryland plant genetic resources threatened with extinction in priority areas have been surveyed, collected, evaluated and preserved nationally as well as in world base collections.

☐ Financial assistance in preparation of *A Framework for Assessing the Relationship between Trade Liberalization and Biodiversity Conservation*. The paper, prepared by the International Institute for Sustainable Development, develops an analytical framework for assessing the effects of trade liberalization on biodiversity conservation. The framework is designed for individuals preparing or analyzing country biodiversity studies. This document will be published in 1998.

☐ Analysis of the implications of regional and subregional free trade agreements for the genetic resources of the Latin America and Caribbean region. The report will increase knowledge of the impact of trading systems on the environment at the global, regional and subregional levels, and will assist in the development of policy instruments to encourage sustainable use and conservation of genetic resources. The report will be published in 1998.

☐ Coordination of a frontier review on Agricultural Intensification, Soil Biology and Agroecosystem Function in the Tropics. The 1995 review evaluated the importance of the soil biota to sustainable agriculture, and concluded that the economic and social value of soil biodiversity shall be a significant component in the assessment of agricultural sustainability.

☐ Collaboration in the establishment of regional and global networks on biodiversity and biotechnology. UNEP, FAO, and UNIDO work to support such networks, which will facilitate access to information and the exchange of information among countries. These networks will also strengthen the development of databases on biodiversity in developing countries.

/...

Article 11: Incentive Measures

☐ Initiation of projects on freshwater resource conservation and ecotourism. UNEP is in the process of designing a project for funding from GEF and other donors on incentive measures for the conservation and sustainable use of freshwater resources in the Southern Africa region. In addition, GEF has recently approved a project concept prepared by UNEP for the development of a project proposal to review experiences in ecotourism. This project seeks to highlight the incentive measures necessary to encourage sustainable tourism.

☐ Preparation of case studies on market-based incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Eastern and Central Europe. The objectives of these case studies, to be prepared in 1998-1999, is to promote the introduction of selected market-based incentives adapted to local conditions to lend flexibility, financial support and increased efficiency to the existing regulatory regimes in transitional and developing countries. These projects should encourage the long term use of market-based incentives in a variety of situations and conditions. The knowledge derived from the case studies is expected to help strengthen institutional capabilities for the enforcement and monitoring of economic instruments. It will also enhance the understanding of the effectiveness of market-based incentives for environmental management in developing countries.

Article 12: Research and Training

☐ Capacity building initiatives. UNEP's workplan for 1998-1999 is geared towards capacity building initiatives which will facilitate research & training for scientists in developing countries. It is recognized that an essential element in the research and training agenda for the next generation of professionals will require a special focus on targeted research and training based on the ecosystems approach. Broader aspects of biodiversity conservation covering both *in-situ* and *ex-situ* facilities need to be addressed with a view to enhancing institutional capacities and ensuring the maintenance of adequate levels of expertise required for sustainable use of microbial, plant and animal genetic resources.

☐ Publication of various policy volumes. UNEP either produced or collaborated in the production of several policy publications. These include (a) UNEP's Forest Policy and a Proposed Action Programme for the period 1996-2000, (b) Collecting Plant Genetic Diversity - Technical Guidelines, (c) UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology (in all UN languages), (d) Guide to Information Management in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and (e) Negotiating a Sustainable Future for Land: Structural and Institutional Guidelines for Land Resources Management in the 21st Century.

☐ Coordination of an in-depth study on deforestation and forest degradation. The study will focus on the major international underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation and their relationship with national underlying causes. A comprehensive synthesis and analysis report will be available by early next year. UNEP's work in this area results from its position as the lead agency for the IPF proposal for action and the IFF workprogramme on Underlying Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation.

☐ Continued support for implementation of biotechnology safety guidelines. UNEP continues organizing regional workshops on biosafety and on the use of UNEP's International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology. UNEP follows closely the work of the Open ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety (whose first meeting was held in Aarhus, Denmark, 22-26 July 1996)

/...

and of COP III. It continues to support the implementation of the Guidelines by countries, industry, research institutions and other stakeholders; and it seeks financial resources on bilateral and multilateral basis to support developing countries and countries with economies-in-transition to build their capacity to implement the Guidelines.

□ Support to regional/subregional workshops on Safety in Biotechnology. The sub-regional Workshop for Eastern and Southern Africa on Capacity-Building for Safety in Biotechnology was held in Harare, Zimbabwe, on 2-6 June 1996. The sub-regional Workshop for West and Central Africa on Safety in Biotechnology was held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on 10-14 June 1996. The Workshop on Transboundary Movement of Living Modified Organisms Resulting from Modern Biotechnology was held in Aarhus, Denmark, on 19-20 July 1996. And a conference entitled "2nd Central and Eastern European Conference on Regional and International Cooperation for Safety in Biotechnology", was held in Smolenice, Slovakia on 16-18 October 1996.

□ Organization of workshops on biodiversity valuation. UNEP, in collaboration with the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, organized a workshop on "Economics of Biodiversity Loss", from 22-24 April 1996 at Gland, Switzerland. The workshop focused on the appropriate role for economic valuation and economic incentives in developing a framework for biodiversity impact assessment. A regional workshop on "Economic Valuation of Biological Diversity" from 6-9 May 1996 in Santiago, Chile focused on economic issues essential to the conservation of biological diversity, including among others, the valuation of biological diversity. UNEP sponsored this regional workshop in collaboration with the Government of Canada, the Government of Chile and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

□ Development and implementation of environmental law training activities. UNEP's legal training workshops and programmes have contributed to a wider appreciation and implementation of CBD. UNEP held its Third Global Training Programme in Environmental Law and Policy in Nairobi, Kenya, from 22 September - 9 October 1997. The training programme strengthened the knowledge and skills of over 30 participating government officials from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Biodiversity-related conventions, particularly their implementation at the national level, were a major element of the programme. UNEP also held a regional workshop on Strengthening Legal and Institutional Arrangements for Implementing Major Environmental Conventions in South Asia (Maldives, 1-6 April 1997). This workshop benefited from a resource person provided by the CBD Secretariat. In addition, a regional workshop on the Implementation and Incorporation of Biodiversity-related Conventions into National Laws was held in Maputo, Mozambique, during June/July 1997, with the collaboration of the Secretariat of the Lusaka Agreement and the UNEP/UNDP/Government of the Netherlands Joint Project on Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa. Resource persons were provided by UNEP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, relevant convention secretariats, the World Bank and the World Conservation Union.

Additional regional workshops are planned for the coming biennium. UNEP plans to organize, along with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Commonwealth Secretariat, a workshop on the implementation of environmental conventions, including CBD, for countries in the South Pacific. And a workshop in English for African countries on the legislative implementation of the CBD, UNFCCC and CCD will be organized by UNEP with the cooperation of relevant convention secretariats.

/...

- ☐ Provision of legal information on the implementation of CBD and other biodiversity legislation. UNEP has provided, or is providing, technical assistance to several countries which involves a review of the implementation status of ratified environmental conventions such as the CBD. These countries include Cameroon, Congo, Ghana, Morocco and Zambia). Some other countries have adopted, with UNEP assistance, framework or general environmental laws that have sought to implement various provisions of the CBD.
- ☐ Project preparation on biodiversity legislation. UNEP is currently working with the Government of Peru and two environmental NGOs to prepare a project on the development of biodiversity regulations needed to implement a new law on biodiversity. UNEP has also developed a number of GEF project concepts for the development and/or strengthening of national biodiversity legislation for China, Cuba, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico and Venezuela.
- ☐ Publication of various law documents. A number of UNEP environmental law publications contain information concerning implementation of the CBD, including: the Reports of the First and Second Global Training Programmes in Environmental Law and Policy (1993 and 1995); *Handbook of Environmental Law*; *Biannual Bulletin on Environmental Law*; *Environmental Law Training Manual*; 1996 *Register of Treaties and Other Agreements in the Field of the Environment*; *Report of the Regional Workshop on Strengthening Legal and Institutional Arrangements for Implementing Major Environmental Conventions in South Asia*; and *Compendium of Environmental Laws of African Countries*.
- ☐ Harmonization of national environmental legislation. Under the UNEP/UNDP/Government of the Netherlands Joint Project on Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa, work has been undertaken within a subregional project involving Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda to harmonize national legislation related to environmental impact assessment, environmental standards, forestry, hazardous wastes, Lake Victoria and wildlife.

Article 13: Public Education and Awareness

- ☐ Support of formal education and research in biodiversity. UNEP supports formal secondary and university-level education on biodiversity under the UNEP/UNESCO International Environmental Education Programme. UNEP also supports other education initiatives, such as studies on property rights and their relation to access to genetic resources; studies on ecological economics; the creation of a format for species information; the sponsoring of a biodiversity forum for decision makers and scientists; training and technical assistance; and the publication and wide distribution of numerous publications for awareness-building.
- ☐ Co-sponsorship of a number of Global Biodiversity Forums (GBFs). GBFs foster analysis, dialogue and debate among those interested in ecological, economic, institutional and social issues related to the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable and equitable use of biological resources. They are designed to contribute to the further development and implementation of the CBD and other biodiversity-related instruments at the international, regional and national levels. Results of the forums are presented to Conference of the Parties. UNEP sponsors GBFs along with IUCN, WRI and the African Centre for Technological Studies (ACTS).

The GBF Concept

The GBF concept was initially proposed by the WRI-IUCN-UNEP 1992 publication, *Global Biodiversity Strategy*. The Forum concept was formally tested through an *International Conference on the Convention on Biological Diversity: National Interests and Global Imperatives*, held at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, in January 1993. Since then 10 GBFs have been held as follows:

GBF1	- Gland	- October 1993, prior to the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on the CBD (ICCBD)
GBF2	- Nassau	- November 1994, prior to COP-1 of the CBD
GBF3	- Jakarta	- November 1995, prior to the COP-2 of the CBD
GBF4	- Montreal	- September 1996, prior to SBSTTA-2 of the CBD
GBF5	- Buenos Aires	- November 1996, prior to COP-3 of the CBD
GBF6	- New York	- April 1997, prior to CSD-5
GBF7	- Harare	- June 1997, prior to the COP-10 of CITES
GBF8	- Montreal	- August 1997, prior to SBSTTA-3 of the CBD
GBF9	- Kyoto	- December 1997, during COP-3 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
GBF10	- Bratislava	- May 1998, prior to COP-4 of the CBD

Article 14: Impact Assessment and Minimizing Adverse Impacts

☐ Publication of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) training documents. The UNEP *EIA Training Resource Manual* was drafted and launched in June 1996, together with the *EIA: Issues, Trends and Practice* document. The launching took place at a special session at the 1996 International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) Conference held in Estoril, Portugal.

☐ Support for capacity building in EIA. UNEP has convened a series of EIA Capacity Building workshops in Central and Eastern Europe (Hungary), Central America (Honduras), Africa (Uganda) and Asia (Vietnam) in 1997 and 1998. The objectives of these workshops were to undertake a needs analysis for EIA capacity building requirements in these countries and to the extent possible in the regions, and train trainers and practitioners in the use and application of EIA based on the *EIA Training Resource Manual* and the *EIA: Issues, Trends and Practice* document.

☐ Support to development of EIA case studies. A joint project has been initiated with the IAIA and the Canadian Environmental Agency to develop a compendium of case studies in EIA.

Article 15: Access to Genetic Resources

☐ Development of case studies on benefit-sharing arrangements. In response to the Call for Case Studies on Benefit-Sharing Arrangements by the CBD, UNEP commissioned two case studies on benefit-sharing arrangements. The case studies analyze the access and benefit-sharing issues and give policy conclusions and recommendations using the indicative outline for case studies on benefit sharing arrangements prepared by the Secretariat to the CBD. The case studies compare the types of benefits generated from two very different commercial sectors: the pharmaceutical and the phytomedicine/herbal medicine industries, including examining the way in which each creates incentives for conservation.

/...

- Support to research on benefit-sharing arrangements. UNEP commissioned the development of a paper entitled *A Conceptual Framework for Promoting Benefit Sharing of Conservation and Use of Plant Genetic Resources* which offers alternatives for rewarding local and indigenous communities to conserve and sustainably use plant genetic resources.
- Development of a project on valuation of global benefits. In 1998, UNEP is carrying out a project entitled *Measurement of the Global Benefits Derived from Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use* which seeks to review existing valuation techniques and their applicability to the measurement of global benefits of biological diversity; identify the gaps and limitations of the existing methodologies in their application to the measurement of global benefits. The report will recommend workable methodologies for measuring global benefits derived from biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use.
- Establishment of global and regional databases. UNEP, in collaboration with FAO, supported the establishment of global and regional data banks on livestock and poultry genetic resources; the production of a coastal resource atlas using GIS as a management tool for coastal regions; and the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Information Network (BIN21) was initiated with the Tropical Database in Brazil.

Article 16: Access to and Transfer of Technology

- Support to the conservation and sustainable utilization of microbial resources. This support is carried out principally through the MIRCENs network. Activities include conservation of microbial germplasm and application of related technologies such as biological nitrogen fixation; biocontrol of pests and vectors; bioremediation and bioleaching. UNEP, with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), World Health Organisation (WHO) and FAO also participates in the Working Group on Biotechnology Safety.

Article 17: Exchange of Information

- Creation of the International Register on Biosafety (IRB). This register was launched by UNEP in July 1996 to serve as a mechanism for the implementation of the UNEP Guidelines and as an exchange for specific information between biosafety focal points and for general information concerning national biosafety mechanisms, to include information on biosafety guidelines, regulations, notification schemes and approvals given for the marketing of products of modern biotechnology. The Register is intended to facilitate exchange of general information about genetic research of value to risk assessment, and risk management. The Register is linked to existing relevant databases such as the Biosafety Information Network and Advisory Services (BINAS) of UNIDO and Biotrack of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), among others. It will facilitate exchange of information on living modified organisms (LMOs) and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and organisms with novel traits (ONTs) and provide information on sub-regional, regional and global activities on biosafety. The Guidelines are available in English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic and Russian and have been widely disseminated to government institutions, intergovernmental NGOs and the private sector, including the biotechnology industry. The Guidelines are accessible on the UN International Register on Biosafety (IRB) on a World Wide Web site located at "<http://www.unep.org/unep/program/natres/biodiv/irb/welcome.htm>".

A list of over 100 national biosafety focal points has been posted on the Register which is being updated as appropriate, when more Governments and organisations submit their focal points. The results of a UNEP Survey on the implementation of the UNEP Guidelines conducted for presentation at the

International Workshop to Follow Up on UNEP's International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology, are also posted on the IRB website on the Internet. It contains biosafety information contributed by Governments in line with UNEP Guidelines.

☐ Joint OECD/UNEP Global Survey on Regulatory Oversight on the Commercialization of Agricultural Products through Biotechnology. The survey, carried out in 1996, focused on the review of national policies, with respect to regulatory oversight, that will influence the movement of these products into the marketplace. UNEP will also continue its cooperation in the area of biosafety with the aim to link OECD Bio-Track and UNEP's IRB and promote the implementation of UNEP's Biosafety Guidelines by OECD member countries.

☐ Creation and support to the Information Resource for the Release of Organisms (IRRO). This not-for-profit referral service provides information resources on the release of organisms into the environment. The scope of the IRRO covers introduction of non-indigenous plants, animals and micro-organisms into new environments as well as release of living modified organisms (LMOs). A simple search system is available on the host computers at Base de Dados Tropical in Brazil and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) in the United Kingdom.

Article 18: Technical and Scientific Cooperation

☐ Development and publication of the Global Biodiversity Assessment (GBA). As a major contribution to mobilizing the scientific community to help provide a solid basis for further decision-making and follow-up to the Convention on Biological Diversity and Agenda 21, UNEP initiated the Global Biodiversity Assessment, with funding from GEF, with the aim of providing an independent, critical, peer-reviewed scientific analysis of the current issues, theories and views regarding the main global aspects of biodiversity. The assessment will serve as a basis for decision-making to meet the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Agenda 21; it will also be an important tool for the scientific body of the Convention. The potential audience of the Assessment is large and includes international, regional and national environmental organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, as well as policy makers and scientists working in the field of biodiversity. About 1,000 scientists were involved in preparing or reviewing the Assessment.

☐ Support to the pilot phase of the Clearing-House Mechanism. As a contribution to the establishment and operation of the pilot phase of the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) as per Article 18 of the Convention, UNEP is currently assisting 15 countries to set in place the basic infrastructure and to receive the necessary training to allow national Focal Points to exchange relevant information and experiences.

☐ Joint collaboration on the report *Linking Global Environmental Issues with Human Needs: Opportunity for Strategic Intervention*. UNEP, in collaboration with the World Bank and National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA), spearheads the preparation of an assessment of interlinkages and dependencies between environmental issues and the consequent capabilities of life support systems, to meet basic human needs of adequate food, clean water and energy services, safe shelter and a healthy environment. It is the first publication which attempts to discuss the scientific linkages between an array of global environmental issues, namely loss of biodiversity, climate change, ozone depletion, deforestation, desertification and land degradation.

☐ Organization of sustainable mountain and forest conservation and sustainable use meetings. UNEP co-organized together with FAO, the Government of Ethiopia and International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the African Inter-Governmental Consultation on Sustainable Mountain Development.

/...

3-7 June 1996, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Consultation focussed on exchanging ideas and experiences on mountain development among African countries; and formulation and identification of regional and sub-regional cooperation programme and priorities on sustainable mountain development in Africa.

UNEP assisted the World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development (WCFS) in organizing the "African Regional Hearing on Forests" in May 1997. The Hearing was held from 5-9 May 1997 in Yaounde, Cameroon attended by more than 200 participants from "civil society" (NGOs, CBOs and VO, local communities, forest dwellers) as well as governmental and private sectors. The Hearing focused its discussions on the need to strengthen the positive contributions of rural communities, and of private sector enterprises, on forest conservation and sustainable use, and on the related policy and institutional framework needed to support the necessary changes in behaviour at both national and international levels.

Article 19: Handling of Biotechnology and Distribution of its Benefits

☐ Joint organization of regional and subregional consultations on biotechnology. UNEP, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the CBD and relevant UN entities including UNIDO, FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, WHO, DPCSD as well as representatives from the biotechnology industry, hosted seven regional and sub-regional consultations (March to September 1995) and an apex Global consultation of government-designated experts that considered and adopted the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology in Cairo in December 1995. An International Workshop to Follow Up on UNEP's International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology was also held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1996. The workshop discussed (a) the state of the art in biotechnology products development and trade related instruments, (b) progress in the implementation of the UNEP Guidelines, (c) information supply and information exchange for safety in biotechnology, (d) regulatory frameworks and harmonization, and (e) initiatives and activities in capacity building for safety in biotechnology.

☐ Initiation of 18 National Biosafety Projects. The GEF Council meeting held 4-6 November 1997 considered and approved 18 national biosafety proposals and a medium-sized regional biosafety proposal submitted by UNEP. The proposals were approved as one package under the title "Pilot Biosafety Enabling Activity Project", consisting of two components as follows:

Component 1 (National Level): Assistance for the preparation of National Biosafety Frameworks for 18 countries in the context of the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology and the Biosafety Protocol under preparation. Major activities to be carried out by countries under this component of the project include: establishment of a task force; stock taking and assessment of the status of the country on matters related to biosafety; identification and analysis of options to implement UNEP's International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology; and, planning and preparation of National Biosafety Frameworks.

Component 2 (Global Level): Support to Regional Workshops on Biosafety. Eight regional workshops (two in each region - Africa, Asia/Pacific, Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean). These workshops will cover the techniques, procedures and measures to be considered, as appropriate, in respect of risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms (LMOs)/organisms with novel traits (ONTs) at national, sub-regional and regional levels. They will also cover issues related to the transboundary transfer of living modified organisms (LMOs)/organisms with novel traits (ONTs), including appropriate mechanisms and modalities for supply and exchange of information, for enhancement of biosafety. To be covered also will be issues of data harmonization, data validation and mutual acceptance of data. Participants would examine and review the critical role of international

databases as sources of information for risk assessment and risk management since such databases provide detailed knowledge of and experience gained by countries/organizations and would also assist in the development of national, sub-regional or regional models.

Article 21: Financial Mechanism

☐ UNEP's role in the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Within the overall framework of GEF, UNEP plays an important role in providing guidance on technical aspects to be considered in the funding of biodiversity projects. Along with UNDP and the World Bank, UNEP assists the GEF Secretariat in incorporating COP/CBD evolving guidance into GEF policy and its Biodiversity Operational Programmes. UNEP is also expected to continue to play an important role in providing scientific and technical inputs to GEF at all levels, including the review of project proposals in the field of biodiversity. It also serves as the Secretariat of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP), the principal advisory body of GEF on scientific and technical aspects.

☐ Through the GEF Operational Strategy on Biodiversity, UNEP plays a major role in mobilizing funds for projects in support of the implementation of Agenda 21 and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly projects that provide technical assistance and investments for biodiversity conservation, management and sustainable utilization and safe application of biotechnology.

☐ UNEP also initiates and carries out projects which reinforce the ability of GEF to arrive at sound policy and operational decisions. Such projects: (a) support the strategic objectives of the CBD; (b) enhance the ability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement their Convention obligations through the preparation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to fulfill the CBD reporting requirements; (c) provide a more solid scientific and technical base in support of cost-effective, sustainable and high priority GEF biodiversity projects; (d) enhance the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in scientific and technical assessments and monitoring activities; and (e) promote regional cooperation in biodiversity management and conservation and related biosafety aspects. A complete list of ongoing and pipeline projects is presented in Annex I.

Article 22: Relationship with other International Conventions

☐ Coordination of Secretariats of Environmental Conventions. For the last four years, the Executive Director of UNEP has been convening and coordinating meetings of Coordination of Secretariats of Environmental Conventions. These meetings have been held pursuant to Chapter 38 of Agenda 21.

The United Nations General Assembly endorsed the contents of Agenda 21 by its Resolution 47/190. Subsequently, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to continue to promote the coherent coordination of the functioning of environmental conventions, including their Secretariats, with a view to improving effectiveness of the implementation of the conventions.

The Executive Director of UNEP has been coordinating convention secretariats meetings since 1994. To date, seven meetings on coordination of secretariats of environmental conventions have been held. The eighth meeting is planned to be convened back to back with the Special Session of UNEP's Governing Council in May 1998.

☐ These meetings have sought to provide a forum for exchange of information, discussion, agreement and cooperation on issues of mutual interest to convention secretariats. Participants to these meetings

/...

have been chief executives from the convention secretariats administered by UNEP, which include the CBD Secretariat, as well as other relevant secretariats invited depending on the issues on the agenda.

Focus on procedural and administrative issues has shifted to several substantive issues and joint activities have been discussed in the meetings of coordination of convention secretariats addressing specific categories of coordination functions. Issues common to the Secretariats have been identified and efforts have been made to undertake joint activities for their implementation or are already underway to effect them. Such issues include: implementation of the conventions at national level, including development of relevant national legislation and institutions; capacity building and technical assistance including related training programmes; financial mechanisms required for GEF funding of joint projects; development of joint programmes to deal with common issues; and the relationship between global conventions and regional agreements and programmes.

Coordination meetings have undertaken a results-oriented approach in fulfillment of the objectives, scope and content of coordination. In this regard, the meetings fulfill the mandate entrusted to UNEP under Agenda 21 by promoting coherent development and effective implementation of international environmental law; and strengthens the working relationship between UNEP and the Secretariats by performing a synthesizing and catalyzing role to fill lacunae which may exist in the functions performed by the Secretariats. Such meetings further support activities of the convention Secretariats and enhance the relationship between UNEP and the secretariats in terms of programmatic, legal, financial and conference servicing functions. These activities promote synergy of efforts, avoid duplication of activities and programmes, and consequently maintain cost efficiency of the Convention Secretariats.

For the CBD Secretariat this established coordination mechanism has a special relevance, since the relationship between CBD and other biodiversity related conventions remain high on the agenda of meetings of the Conference of Parties. The coordination process institutionalized by UNEP is available for effective use in enhancing collaboration among the biodiversity related conventions. The biodiversity-related global convention secretariats administered by UNEP include: CBD, CITES, CMS and a regional agreement, the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora.

☐ Provision of interim arrangements to the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora. The regional agreement open to accession by any African government was adopted in September 1994 and became operative in December 1996. The agreement, whose objective is reduce and completely eliminate illegal trade in wild fauna and flora, strengthens and implements CBD as well as CITES in Africa. Joint activities to implement the relevant global biodiversity-related conventions and the regional Lusaka Agreement have been undertaken in 1997.

☐ Harmonization of biodiversity related treaties. The World Conservation Monitoring Centre is currently working on behalf of UNEP and Secretariats of CBD, CITES, CMS, and RAMSAR on a feasibility study for a harmonized management infrastructure for biodiversity related treaties. One of the objectives of the feasibility study is to harmonize and streamline reporting procedures to various environmental convention secretariats and conferences of the parties.

☐ Preparation of Convention Coordination Papers to the African Region. At the initiative of the UNEP Regional Office for Africa, two papers had been prepared and presented at the sixth meeting of coordination of convention secretariats. The papers on "Sensitizing Programme for Raising Awareness on the Obligations and Benefits of the Conventions for the Africa Region" and A Mechanism for Provision of Support for the Implementation of Conventions at the National, Sub-regional and Regional Levels in Africa were discussed. Currently, the Regional Office is consulting

with the Convention Secretariats to build upon the exchange of views and relevant initiatives, on-going or planned to update the papers and recommend further joint action for the African region.

☐ Assessment of Implementation of Conventions in Europe. UNEP has been requested by Governments in Europe to prepare a report on the status of implementation of global environmental conventions in the region for presentation to the environmental ministers conference in Aarhus, Denmark during June 1998. It is anticipated that this report will provide the basis, within available resources, for a more comprehensive analysis of convention implementation in the European region which may also serve as a model for similar work in other regions. UNEP is consulting closely with the Convention Secretariats, including CBD, in the preparation of the status report and the subsequent comparative analysis.

☐ Preparation of the Millennium Global Environment Outlook Report (GEO-2). GEO-2, prepared in close consultation with the Convention Secretariats, including CBD, will review and assess, in a qualitative manner, the combined impacts of the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements. The scope of the assessment will include regional and global conventions, soft law, and environmental funding mechanisms. The First Draft of Chapter 5 is currently being reviewed in-house including the convention secretariats.

BIODIVERSITY PORTFOLIO DURING GEF 1 AND GEF 2

As one of the three Implementing Agencies of the GEF, UNEP endeavoured, right from the pilot phase of the GEF, to promote and implement projects that corresponded to its mandate and comparative advantage. Three major considerations have guided the selection of projects which UNEP sponsored in the GEF as the Implementing Agency:

- Projects that addressed the priorities highlighted by the Conference of the Parties to the Biodiversity Convention (CBD) particularly those activities that assist Parties² in setting in place the necessary basic building blocks to start implementing the provisions of the CBD (eg. preparation of national biodiversity country studies, strategies and action plans);
- Projects that corresponded to specific requests emanating from countries relating to activities for which UNEP had an unquestionable comparative advantage over the other 2 implementing agencies of the GEF (eg. projects in the biosafety area);
- Projects of a transboundary, regional or global scope that allow harmonization of national practices, development of best practices and dissemination of lessons learned for sustainable management of biological resources (e.g., alien invasive species and Mesoamerican biological corridor projects).

Ongoing Projects

1. **Enabling Activities (preparation of biodiversity country studies; strategies; action plans; establishment of the Clearing House Mechanism under the CBD).**

A total of 28 countries are participating in this project to date. The project started September 1996 and is expected to be completed around June 1999.

Total budget to date: US\$ 4.79 million
Executing Agency: National Governments

2. **Support to the Preparation of National Biosafety Frameworks**

A total of 18 countries will be preparing their national biosafety frameworks under this project. The project comprises also a global component consisting of regional workshops on biosafety from which all GEF eligible countries will benefit. The project started in April 1998 and is expected to be completed by April 1999.

Total budget: US\$ 2.74 million
Executing Agency: National Governments

3. **People, Land Management and Environmental Change (PLEC)**

This is a project which seeks to develop sustainable biodiversity conservation methods in agricultural systems, linking together farmers/pastoralists and scientists through South-South cooperation and South-North twinning arrangements. Eight countries, representing different continents (Latin America, Africa, Asia/Pacific) and different ecosystems (forests margins, semi-arid regions, mountains and wetlands corridors) as well as different socio-economic contexts, are participating in this demonstration type of project. The project started in January 1998 and is expected to be completed in January 2001.

/...

Total budget: US\$ 6.27 million (including the PDF B allocation).
Executing Agency: United Nations University

4. Rescue Plan for the Cap Blanc Colony of the Mediterranean Monk Seal.

This is a medium - sized project approved under the emergency/short term response measure framework of the GEF to deal with the mass mortality of monk seals that had arisen on the coast of Mauritania in May 1997. The project aims to rescue and rehabilitate sick animals while a long-term operational programme -linked project that deals with the root causes of the problem is being formulated by UNDP. The project started in November 1997 and is expected to be completed by April 1998.

Total budget: US\$ 150,000
Executing Agencies: Institute for Forestry and Nature Research-Dept. of Aquatic Ecology (The Netherlands) in collaboration with the Centre National de Recherche Oceanographique et de Pêche (CNROP) (Mauritania)

5. Development of Best Practices and Dissemination of Lessons Learned for Dealing with the Global Problems of Alien Invasive Species that Threaten Biological Diversity

This is a global project aimed at developing a global strategy and action plan on Alien Invasive Species to facilitate implementation of Article 8(h) of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The project was developed as a response to a request from the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties that called for the development of a scientifically based global strategy and action plan to deal with alien species that threaten biological diversity. The project started in April 1998 and is expected to be completed by September 2000.

Total budget: US\$ 750,000
Executing Agency: SCOPE

6. Global Biodiversity Forum (Phase II): Broadening Support for the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

This is a medium - size project of a global scope which was formulated to assist the civil society to continue making its contribution to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity through the Global Biodiversity Forum which takes place ahead of each COP meeting and forwards recommendations to the COP for selected items on the agenda of the COP. The current proposal will assist the convening of the Global Biodiversity Forum for feeding into COP4 deliberations, and possibly COP5. The project started in March 1998 and is expected to be completed in February 2000.

Total budget: US\$ 750,000
Executing Agency: IUCN

7. Establishment of a Programme for the Consolidation of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor

A joint UNDP/UNEP project aimed at enhancing the conservation of biodiversity in Central America and Southern Mexico by establishing a Programme for the Consolidation of a Biological Corridor (MBC). The MBC will consist of a network of protected areas and their buffer zones

/...

linked by biological corridors of a variety of uses and degrees of protection. UNEP will be primarily responsible for the components of the project dealing with policy harmonization, awareness raising and outreach.

Total project budget: US\$ 10.94 million (out of which approximately US\$ 2.2 million will be for activities to be implemented by UNEP)

Executing Agency: OAS, CCAD

Part II: PDFs under implementation

1. Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Eastern Rift Valley Lakes

A PDF Block B (US\$ 337,500) implemented jointly by UNEP and UNDP aimed at developing a Strategic Action Programme for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Eastern Rift Valley Lakes (Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania). UNEP is primarily responsible for components of the project dealing with synthesis of existing past studies, monitoring and assessment, as well as scientific research related issues. A GEF project brief is expected to be developed by end of December 1998 for submission to the GEF in January 1999.

Executing Agency: National Governments

2. Desert Margins Programme (DMP)

A PDF Block B for US\$ 340,000 recommended for CEO approval in January 1998 which aims at developing a GEF project out of the multidisciplinary programme for dryland development to promote, through demonstration, innovative and action-oriented dryland management practices to arrest land degradation and the resulting loss of biodiversity. A project brief is expected to be developed by end of July 1999 for submission to the GEF in August or September 1999.

Executing Agency: National Governments

3. Incentive Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

A PDF Block A (US\$ 25,000) approved in May 1997 to develop a proposal that would look at case studies and experiences that would facilitate implementation of Article 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as requested by Decision III/18 of the third meeting of the COP. A GEF project brief focusing on case studies on wetland ecosystems in Southern Africa is near finalization and should be submitted to the GEF in May 1998.

Executing Agency: National Governments

4. Land-Use Change, Agrobiodiversity and Global Environmental Benefits

A PDF Block A (US\$ 25,000) approved in December 1997 to develop a proposal aimed at providing a better understanding of how agriculture and other land uses and the soil biodiversity interact and affect each other. This proposal fits in with Decision III/11 of the COP to the CBD which laid out a broad framework for addressing the interrelationship between biological diversity for agriculture and the impact of agriculture on biodiversity. A GEF project brief focusing on case

studies in a number of countries is under development and is expected to be ready in July 1998 for submission to the GEF in August 1998.

Executing Agencies: Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Programme with National Agricultural Research Centres

5. Establishment of the Lop Nur Nature Sanctuary for conservation of the highly endangered wild bactrian camel species in China

A PDF Block A (US\$ 25,000) grant allocated in March 1995 which has now led to the development of a medium-size project proposal under the GEF short-term measure response framework. The proposal will be submitted to the GEF in April 1998 (US\$ 725,000). The project duration will be of 3 years.

Executing Agency: National Environment Protection Agency-China

6. Species 2000: a Programme for Indexing the World's described species of animals, plants and microorganisms

This PDF Block A (US\$ 25,000) was approved in March 1996 to contribute to the implementation of Article 7 of the CBD (Identification and Monitoring). The need to develop an Index of the world's known species as a tool for facilitating work on taxonomy was one of the recommendations of the Global Biodiversity Assessment report. A PDF B was developed from the PDF A but has been put in abeyance at the recommendation of the GEF Secretariat pending guidance from the COP on how to implement the Global Taxonomic Initiative suggested by the SBSTTA and endorsed by the COP at its third meeting (Decision III/10). It is expected that after COP4, the Species 2000 proposal will move forward.

Executing Agencies: Species 2000 Secretariat and DIVERSITAS

Part III: Pipeline under development

The following project concepts were presented by UNEP to the GEF Secretariat and found eligible for further development into project proposals:

1. Support to Community-Based Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in Various Terrestrial and Marine Ecosystems (Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand)

This medium size project will support implementation of Article 8(j) of the CBD by promoting the application of local communities' knowledge, innovations and practices in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in selected ecosystems in the participating countries.

2. Review of experiences in ecotourism and analysis of lessons learned (multi-country project).

This medium size proposal will contribute to the implementation of Article 6(b) of the CBD by the focusing on a key sector (i.e. tourism) for which UNEP was given a strong mandate by the CSD and UNGASS.

/...

3. Arun Valley Sustainable Resource Use and Management Project

This medium sized project proposal was submitted by an NGO in Nepal and addresses implementation of Article 8(j) of the CBD. A PDF A request is under preparation.

4. Biodiversity Gap Analysis in Latin America

A medium size project proposal aiming at providing a rational and scientific basis for establishment of protected areas in South America forest ecosystems. A PDF A request is under preparation. It will support implementation of Article 8 of the CBD.

5. Bioecological Characterization of Wetlands in the Coast and Insular Regions of Venezuela

A medium size project proposal aiming at identifying alternatives to strengthen the protected areas and give them an important role in conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development by formulating development plans and policies where the real economic value of biodiversity has been incorporated. This will be the first project in UNEP/GEF portfolio addressing the issue of valuation of biological resources.

A PDF A request is under preparation.

6. Development of Biodiversity Indicators

This is a proposal falling under the targeted research framework of the GEF which was recently cleared by the GEF Research Committee. It aims at developing indicators that would be used by countries as tools that to assess the status and trends of their overall biodiversity based on the impact of the various measures taken to implement the CBD. This activity was strongly recommended by the third meeting of the SBSTTA and by STAP.

A PDF A request is under preparation.

